

What is claimed is:

1 1. An editing server included in an audio/video (AV)
2 editing system, which includes a plurality of clients that
3 are connected via a network to the editing server, the
4 editing server including:

5 editing information receiving means for receiving
6 editing information from a client out of the plurality of
7 clients, wherein the editing information specifies at least
8 one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least
9 one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at
10 least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b)
11 an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

12 AV stream obtaining means for obtaining each
13 specified AV stream;

14 editing means for performing the editing operation
15 for the obtained AV streams in accordance with the received
16 editing information; and

17 transmitting means for transmitting each AV stream,
18 for which the editing operation has been performed, to the
19 client.

1 2. The editing server of Claim 1, further including

2 AV stream storing means for storing at least one AV
3 stream,

4 wherein when the received editing information
5 specifies at least two AV streams, at least two video frames
6 in the at least two AV streams, and the combining as the

7 editing operation, the AV stream obtaining means reads the at
8 least two specified AV streams from the AV stream storing
9 means, and

10 wherein the editing means performs the editing
11 operation by combining the at least two specified video
12 frames contained in the at least two read AV streams to
13 generate an AV stream.

1 3. The editing server of Claim 2,

2 wherein as a result of the combining, the editing
3 means generates a combined video frame, and reduces a
4 resolution of the combined video frame.

1 4. The editing server of Claim 1, further including

2 AV stream storing means for storing at least one AV
3 stream,

4 wherein when the received editing information
5 specifies the addition as the editing operation, the AV
6 stream obtaining means reads the at least one specified AV
7 stream from the AV stream storing means, and

8 wherein the editing means performs the editing
9 operation by adding a special effect to each specified frame
10 contained in the at least one read AV stream.

1 5. The editing server of Claim 1,

2 wherein when the received editing information
3 specifies the addition as the editing operation, the AV

stream obtaining means receives the at least one specified AV stream from the client who sends the editing information, and wherein the editing means performs the editing operation by adding a special effect to each specified frame contained in the at least one received AV stream.

6. An audio-video (AV) editing system which comprises the editing server of Claim 1 and a plurality of clients that are connected via a network to the editing server,

wherein the plurality of clients each include:

editing information generating means for generating editing information, which specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

editing information transmitting means for transmitting the generated editing information to the editing server;

stream receiving means for receiving an AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, from the editing server; and

reproducing means for reproducing the received AV stream.

7. An editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a content server and a

plurality of clients, wherein the editing server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are connected via a network, the editing server including:

editing information receiving means for receiving editing information and a client number from the content server,

wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream and at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and contains an instruction to perform at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame,

wherein the client number specifies a client to which an AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, is to be transmitted;

AV stream receiving means for receiving each specified AV stream from the content server, which stores an AV stream;

editing means for extracting the instruction from the received editing information, and performing, for the received AV streams, at least one of the combining and the addition in accordance with the extracted instruction; and

transmitting means for transmitting each AV stream, for which at least one of the combining and the addition has been performed, to the client specified by the client number.

8. A content server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes an editing server and a plurality of

3 clients, wherein the editing server, the content server, and
4 the plurality of clients are connected via a network, the
5 content server including:

6 AV stream storing means for storing at least one AV
7 stream;

8 editing information receiving means for receiving
9 editing information from a client out of the plurality of
10 clients,

11 wherein the editing information specifies at least
12 one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least
13 one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at
14 least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an
15 addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c)
16 a transmission of each specified frame; and

17 transmitting means for reading each specified frame
18 from the AV stream storing means, transmitting the read frame
19 to the editing server if the specified editing operation is
20 at least one of the combining and the addition, and
21 transmitting the read frame to the client if the specified
22 editing operation is the transmission.

1 9. An audio-video (AV) editing system which comprises a
2 plurality of clients, the editing server of Claim 7, and the
3 content server of Claim 8, all of which are connected via a
4 network, wherein the plurality of clients each include:

5 editing information generating means for generating
6 the editing information, which specifies at least one AV

stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c) a transmission of each specified frame;

editing information transmitting means for transmitting the generated editing information to the content server;

receiving means for receiving an AV stream from one of the editing server and the content server; and

reproducing means for reproducing the received AV stream.

10. An editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of editing clients connected via a network to the editing server, wherein each editing client performs editing for an AV stream by executing a script, wherein the editing server includes:

script storing means for storing a group of scripts that each describe a processing content for producing a special effect of a different type;

script request receiving means for receiving a request for a script from a client out of the plurality of clients, the request designating a type of the script; and

script transmitting means for reading the script of the designated type from the script storing means, and transmitting the read script to the client.

1 11. The editing server of Claim 10, further including:

2 script list request receiving means for receiving a
3 request for a script list from an editing client out of the
4 plurality of editing clients, the script list showing
5 information regarding the group of scripts stored in the
6 script storing means;

7 script list storing means for storing the script
8 list; and

9 script transmitting means for reading the script list
10 from the script list storing means in response to the
11 received request, and transmitting the read script list to
12 the editing client.

1 12. The editing server of Claim 10, further including:

2 sample data generating means for reading a script
3 from the script storing means, and having the read script
4 executed on a predetermined AV stream to generate sample
5 data;

6 sample data request receiving means for receiving a
7 request for sample data from an editing client out of the
8 plurality of editing clients, the request designating a type
9 of a script; and

10 sample data transmitting means for transmitting, to
11 the editing client, the sample data generated by having the
12 script of the designated type executed.

1 13. The editing server of Claim 10, further including:

2 preview data request receiving means for receiving a
3 request for preview data from an editing client out of the
4 plurality of editing clients, the request containing an AV
5 stream and designating a type of a script;

6 preview data generating means for reading the script
7 of the designated type from the script storing means, and
8 executing the read script on the AV stream contained in the
9 received request to generate preview data; and

10 preview data transmitting means for transmitting the
11 generated preview data to the editing client.

1 14. The editing server of Claim 10,

2 wherein the AV editing system further comprises
3 a script generating client connected via the network
4 to the editing server, and

5 wherein the editing server further includes:

6 a registration request receiving means for receiving
7 a script from the script generating client; and

8 a script placing means for placing the received
9 script into the script storing means.

1 15. The editing server of Claim 14, further including:

2 usage information storing means for storing usage
3 information which associates each script stored in the script
4 storing means with an identifier (ID) of a provider who has
5 transmitted the script, and with an ID of a user who has

6 received the script; and

7 charging information generating means for generating,
8 based on the usage information, charging information which
9 associates each script stored in the script storing means
10 with a first fee paid to a provider of the script and a
11 second fee charged to a user of the script.

1 16. The editing server of Claim 15,

2 wherein when the usage information associates a
3 script with a larger total number of IDs of users, the
4 charging information generating means generates the charging
5 information associating the script with a larger first fee
6 and a larger second fee.

1 17. An audio-video (AV) editing system which comprises a
2 plurality of editing clients, the editing server of Claim 10,
3 and a script generating client, wherein the editing server is
4 connected via a network to the script generating client and
5 each editing client, wherein each editing client performs
6 editing for an AV stream by executing a script and includes:

7 transmitting means for transmitting a request for a
8 script to the editing server, the request designating a type
9 of the script; and

10 receiving means for receiving the script of the
11 designated type from the editing server,

12 wherein the script generating client includes:

13 script generating means for generating a script that

14 describes a processing content for producing a special effect
15 of one type; and
16 script transmitting means for transmitting the
17 generated script to the editing server.

1 18. An editing method used by an editing server included in
2 an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a
3 plurality of clients that are connected via a network to the
4 editing server, the editing method including:

5 an editing information receiving step for receiving
6 editing information from a client out of the plurality of
7 clients, wherein the editing information specifies at least
8 one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least
9 one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at
10 least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b)
11 an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

12 an AV stream obtaining step for obtaining each
13 specified AV stream;

14 an editing step for performing the editing operation
15 for the obtained AV streams in accordance with the received
16 editing information; and

17 a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream,
18 for which the editing operation has been performed, to the
19 client.

1 19. An editing method used by an editing server included in
2 an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a content

3 server and a plurality of clients, wherein the editing
4 server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are
5 connected via a network, the editing method including:

6 an editing information receiving step for receiving
7 editing information and a client number from the content
8 server,

9 wherein the editing information specifies at least
10 one AV stream and at least one frame contained in the at
11 least one AV stream, and contains an instruction to perform
12 at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and
13 (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame,

14 wherein the client number specifies a client to which
15 an AV stream, for which the editing operation has been
16 performed, is to be transmitted;

17 an AV stream receiving step for receiving each
18 specified AV stream from the content server, which stores an
19 AV stream;

20 an editing step for extracting the instruction from
21 the received editing information, and performing, for the
22 received AV streams, at least one of the combining and the
23 addition in accordance with the extracted instruction; and

24 a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream,
25 for which at least one of the combining and the addition has
26 been performed, to the client specified by the client number.

1 20. An editing method used by a content server included in
2 an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes an editing

3 server and a plurality of clients, wherein the editing
4 server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are
5 connected via a network, the editing method including:

6 an editing information receiving step for receiving
7 editing information from a client out of the plurality of
8 clients,

9 wherein the editing information specifies at least
10 one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least
11 one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at
12 least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an
13 addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c)
14 a transmission of each specified frame; and

15 a transmitting step for reading each specified frame
16 from AV stream storing means which stores at least one AV
17 stream, transmitting the read frame to the editing server if
18 the specified editing operation is at least one of the
19 combining and the addition, and transmitting the read frame
20 to the client if the specified editing operation is the
21 transmission.

1 21. An editing method used by an editing server included in
2 an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a
3 plurality of editing clients connected via a network to the
4 editing server, wherein each editing client performs editing
5 for an AV stream by executing a script, wherein the editing
6 method includes:

7 a script request receiving step for receiving a

8 request for a script from a client out of the plurality of
9 clients, the request designating a type of the script, the
10 script describing a processing content for producing a
11 special effect of one type;

12 a script transmitting step for reading the script of
13 the designated type from script storing means which stores a
14 script, and transmitting the read script to the client.

1 22. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a
2 program to have a server computer perform editing, wherein
3 the server computer is included in an audio/video (AV)
4 editing system, which includes a plurality of client
5 computers that are connected via a network to the server
6 computer, the editing including:

7 an editing information receiving step for receiving
8 editing information from a client computer out of the
9 plurality of client computers, wherein the editing
10 information specifies at least one AV stream, at least one
11 frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing
12 operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of
13 each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect
14 to each specified frame;

15 an AV stream obtaining step for obtaining each
16 specified AV stream;

17 an editing step for performing the editing operation
18 for the obtained AV streams in accordance with the received
19 editing information; and

20 a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream,
21 for which the editing operation has been performed, to the
22 client computer.

1 23. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a
2 program to have a server computer perform editing, wherein
3 the server computer is included in an audio/video (AV)
4 editing system, which includes a content computer and a
5 plurality of client computers, wherein the server computer,
6 the content computer, and the plurality of client computers
7 are connected via a network, the editing including:

8 an editing information receiving step for receiving
9 editing information and a client number from the content
10 computer,

11 wherein the editing information specifies at least
12 one AV stream and at least one frame contained in the at
13 least one AV stream, and contains an instruction to perform
14 at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and
15 (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame,

16 wherein the client number specifies a client computer
17 to which an AV stream, for which the editing operation has
18 been performed, is to be transmitted;

19 an AV stream receiving step for receiving each
20 specified AV stream from the content computer, which stores
21 an AV stream;

22 an editing step for extracting the instruction from
23 the received editing information, and performing, for the

24 received AV streams, at least one of the combining and the
25 addition in accordance with the extracted instruction; and
26 a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream,
27 for which at least one of the combining and the addition has
28 been performed, to the client computer specified by the
29 client number.

1 24. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a
2 program to have a content computer perform a predetermined
3 operation, wherein the content computer is included in an
4 audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a server
5 computer and a plurality of client computers, wherein the
6 server computer, the content computer, and the plurality of
7 client computers are connected via a network, wherein the
8 predetermined operation includes:

9 an editing information receiving step for receiving
10 editing information from a client computer out of the
11 plurality of client computers,

12 wherein the editing information specifies at least
13 one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least
14 one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at
15 least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an
16 addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c)
17 a transmission of each specified frame; and

18 a transmitting step for reading each specified frame
19 from AV stream storing means which stores at least one AV
20 stream, transmitting the read frame to the server computer if

21 the specified editing operation is at least one of the
22 combining and the addition, and transmitting the read frame
23 to the client computer if the specified editing operation is
24 the transmission.

1 25. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a
2 program to have a server computer perform an editing
3 operation, wherein the server computer is included in an
4 audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality
5 of client computers connected via a network to the server
6 computer, wherein each client computer performs editing for
7 an AV stream by executing a script, wherein the editing
8 operation includes:

9 a script request receiving step for receiving a
10 request for a script from a client computer out of the
11 plurality of client computers, the request designating a type
12 of the script, the script describing a processing content for
13 producing a special effect of one type; and

14 a script transmitting step for reading the script of
15 the designated type from script storing means which stores a
16 script, and transmitting the read script to the client
17 computer.